

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 28, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 11 and 17 have been amended to include certain features of dependent claims 2, 5 and 12, where claims 2 and 12 have been canceled and claim 12 has been amended. Accordingly, no new issues requiring a new search have been introduced and entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,936,638 (Gibbon). Further, claims 2-10, 12-16 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Gibbon. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-21 are patentable over Gibbon for at least the following reasons.

Gibbon is directed to a method of investigating a body using radiation. The energy of the radiation is chosen to be such that the radiation is scattered, rather than absorbed, by the body. FIG 1 of Gibbon includes a double sided arrow but no description is provided as to what the double sided arrow means. Assuming, arguendo, that the double sided arrow indicates movement of the source 1, there is still no teaching or suggestion in Gibbon of "wherein the source of radiation is displaceable along at least a portion of a circular path during the scanning of the object of interest so that the first radiation travels along a surface of the cone of semi angle," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 11 and 17. (Illustrative emphasis provided) Moving the radiation source in a circular path is not even taught or suggested in Gibbon, let alone teaching or suggestion radiation that travels along a surface of a cone of semi angle.

Further, Gibbon does not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 11 and 17 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

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a primary collimator for collimating the first radiation such that the first radiation has a wedge shape and converges at a stationary point of the detector; and

a secondary collimator for absorbing further radiation which is propagating in a direction different from a direction defined by a cone semi angle and the scatter angle.

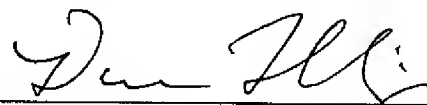
These features are nowhere taught or suggested in Gibbon.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 11 and 17 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-10, 12-16 and 18-21 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 11.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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